WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A bicycle handlebar comprising:

a mounting portion configured and arranged to be coupled to a bicycle in a direction transverse to a center plane of the bicycle;

a first gripping portion extending outwardly from said mounting portion in a first direction located on a first side of the center plane, said first gripping portion including a pair of first bar sections diverging outwardly from each other as said first bar sections extend away from the center plane; and

a second gripping portion extending outwardly from said mounting portion in a second direction located on a second side of the center plane.

2. The bicycle handlebar according to claim 1, wherein

said second gripping portion includes a pair of second bar sections diverging outwardly from each other as said second bar sections extend away from the center plane.

3. The bicycle handlebar according to claim 1, wherein

said first gripping portion includes a first outer connecting section extending between diverging ends of said first bar sections to form a substantially U-shaped loop.

4. The bicycle handlebar according to claim 3, wherein

said first gripping portion includes a first inner connecting section extending between converging ends of said first bar sections to form a closed loop together with said first bar sections and said outer connecting section.

5. The bicycle handlebar according to claim 4, wherein

said second gripping portion is a substantially mirror image of said first gripping portion relative to the center plane.

6. The bicycle handlebar according to claim 5, wherein

said first and second gripping portions are integrally formed with said mounting portion as a one-piece, unitary member.

7. The bicycle handlebar according to claim 4, wherein

said first bar sections, said first outer connecting section, said first inner connecting section and said mounting portion are integrally formed as a one-piece, unitary member.

8. The bicycle handlebar according to claim 4, wherein

said first inner and outer connecting sections are curved such that a substantially oval-shaped open area is formed within said closed loop.

9. The bicycle handlebar according to claim 1, wherein

said first gripping portion includes a first inner connecting section extending between converging ends of said first bar sections to form a substantially U-shaped loop.

10. The bicycle handlebar according to claim 1, wherein

said mounting portion is arc-shaped, at least one of said first bar sections is arc-shaped, and

said mounting portion and a majority of said at least one of said first bar sections that is arc-shaped extend along a common arc.

11. The bicycle handlebar according to claim 1, wherein

said first bar sections are arranged to form a first accessory receiving space therebetween.

12. The bicycle handlebar according to claim 11, wherein

said first accessory receiving space has an elastic element disposed therein that is configured and arranged to retain a bicycle accessory component in said first accessory receiving space.

13. The bicycle handlebar according to claim 1, wherein

said bar sections diverge outwardly relative to said mounting portion at an angle no greater than about 45° relative to each other.

14. A bicycle handlebar comprising:

a mounting portion configured and arranged to be coupled to a bicycle in a direction transverse to a center plane of the bicycle;

a first gripping portion extending outwardly from said mounting portion in a first direction located on a first side of the center plane; and

a second gripping portion extending outwardly from said mounting portion in a second direction located on a second side of the center plane,

at least one of said first and second gripping portions being configured and arranged to form a pair of bar sections defining an accessory receiving space therebetween, said accessory receiving space having an elastic element disposed therein that is configured and arranged to retain a bicycle accessory component in said accessory receiving space, said first and second gripping portions being integrally formed with said mounting portion as a one-piece, unitary member.

15. The bicycle handlebar according to claim 14, wherein

each of said first and second gripping portions includes said bar sections defining said accessory receiving space therebetween.

16. The bicycle handlebar according to claim 14, wherein

said bar sections are connected to each other by a connecting section to form a substantially U-shaped loop part.

17. The bicycle handlebar according to claim 16, wherein

said bar sections are further connected to each other by an additional connecting section to form a closed loop.

18. The bicycle handlebar according to claim 17, wherein

said first and second gripping portions are substantially mirror images of each other relative to the center plane.

19. The bicycle handlebar according to claim 17, wherein

said connecting sections are curved such that a substantially oval-shaped open area is formed within said closed loop, at least part of said oval shaped opening defining said accessory receiving space.

20. The bicycle handlebar according to claim 14, wherein

said mounting portion and said first and second gripping portions are configured and arranged to form an arc that includes at least one of said bar sections with said accessory receiving space being disposed on a concave side of said arc.

21. The bicycle handlebar according to claim 14, wherein

said elastic element includes an elastomeric material coupled to at least one of said bar sections.

22. The bicycle handlebar according to claim 21, wherein

said elastomeric material is coupled to each of said bar sections.

23. The bicycle handlebar according to claim 21, wherein

said elastomeric material defines a curved surface with at least one projection extending inwardly from said curved surface.

24. The bicycle handlebar according to claim 23, wherein

said elastomeric material includes a pair of opposed projections extending inwardly from opposite ends of said curved surface.

25. The bicycle handlebar according to claim 21, wherein

said elastomeric material defines a curved surface with a substantially concave shape that is configured and arranged to frictionally retain a beverage container.

26. The bicycle handlebar according to claim 14, wherein

said bar sections diverge outwardly relative to said mounting portion at an angle no greater than about 45° relative to each other.